IN THE CLAIMS

1.(previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition which consists essentially of Vitamin D and a calcium salt, as active principles and a binding agent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, a polyethylene glycol of molecular weight between 300 and 1500, liquid paraffin and silicone oil, said Vitamin D being present in an amount of 500-1000 I.U. of Vitamin D and said calcium salt being present in a ratio of 1- 2 g of calcium, calculated as elemental calcium, for each 500-1000 I.U. of Vitamin D.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, in which the calcium salt is calcium phosphate.

4. (previously presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 3, wherein the calcium phosphate is 30-80% by weight calculated on the total composition.

5. (previously presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, in which the Vitamin D used is Vitamin D_2 (or ergocalciferol), Vitamin D_3 (or cholecalciferol), or one of their mixtures.

6. (previously presented) Pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 5, in which the vitamin D used is Vitamin D_3.

7. (currently amended)A pharmaceutical composition in a sachet dosage form according to Claim 1, containing ~~the~~ propylene glycol <u>or polyethylene glycol</u> in a quantity

comprised between 5-15% by weight calculated on the total composition.

8. (currently amended)A pharmaceutical tablet according to Claim 1, ~~containing~~ wherein the binder is liquid paraffin or silicone oil.

9. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition in a sachet dosage form ~~characterized as follows~~ which consists essentially of:

Tribasic calcium phosphate (corresponding to 1200 mg of Ca^{++})	3.100 g
Cholecalciferol (Vit. D_3) 100,000 IU/g (corresponding to 800 IU)	0.008 g
Propylene glycol	0.800 g
Sunset Yellow	0.002 g
Colloidal silica	0.120 g
Lemon flavoring	0.100 g
Microcrystalline cellulose- MCC	0.200 g
Sodium saccharin	0.015 g
Anhydrous citric acid	0.165 g
Sucrose monopalmitate	0.120 g
Mannitol q.s. to	7.000 g

10.(currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition in a sachet dosage form ~~characterized as follows~~ which consists essentially of:

Tribasic calcium phosphate (corresponding to 1200 mg of Ca^{++})	3.100 g
Cholecalciferol (Vit. D_3) 100,000 IU/g (corresponding to 800 IU)	0.008 g
Polyethylene glycol	0.800 g
Sunset Yellow	0.002 g
Colloidal silica	0.120 g
Lemon flavoring	0.100 g

Microcrystalline cellulose- MCC	0.200 g
Sodium saccharin	0.015 g
Anhydrous citric acid	0.165 g
Sucrose monopalmitate	0.120 g
Mannitol q.s. to	7.000 g

11. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition in a tablet dosage form ~~characterized as follows~~ which consists essentially of:

Tribasic calcium phosphate (corresponding to 1200 mg of Ca^{++})	3.100 g
Cholecalciferol (Vit. D_3) 100,000 IU/g (corresponding to 800 IU)	0.008 g
Liquid paraffin	0.500 g
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	0.050 g
Sodium saccharin	0.015 g
Orange flavoring	0.100 g
Sorbitol q.s. to	4.400 g

12. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition in a tablet dosage form ~~characterized as follows~~ which consists essentially of:

Tribasic calcium phosphate (corresponding to 1200 mg of Ca^{++})	3.100 g
Cholecalciferol (Vit. D_3) 100,000 IU/g (corresponding to 800 IU)	0.008 g
Silicone oil	0.500 g
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	0.050 g
Sodium saccharin	0.015 g
Orange flavoring	0.100 g
Sorbitol q.s. to	4.400 g

13. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, characterized by the following steps:
a) In a granulator turning at high speed, distributing a binding agent, consisting of propylene glycol or low molecular-weight polyethylene glycols over a calcium salt;
b) Adding colloidal silica, approximately 25% of mannite, citric acid, and sodium saccharin, and mixing for an appropriate time and at an appropriate speed to produce a first mixture;
c) Adding a second mixture, prepared separately, consisting of sucrose palmitate, a suspending agent, flavoring, a coloring agent, approximately 75% of the mannite and the Vitamin D_3, and mixing together with the first mixture to form a granulate; and
d) Distributing the granulate thus obtained into sachets.

14. (previously presented)A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, characterized by the following steps:
a) In a granulator turning at high speed, placing a binding agent, consisting of liquid paraffin or silicon oil, over a calcium salt;
b) Adding in order, to a mixture of colloidal silica, carboxymethyl cellulose and sodium saccharin previously sifted, the Vitamin D_3 and sorbitol, mixing thoroughly every time before a new ingredient is added, and pouring the mixture into the rotating granulator and mixing for an appropriate time and at an appropriate speed to form a granulate; and
c) Compressing the granulate to a required weight to obtain tablets.

15. (canceled

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) Method for treatment of nutritional deficiency of calcium and Vitamin D in the elderly, to reduce the loss of bone tissue linked to age and to prevent femoral fractures and other non-vertebral fractures, in which therapeutically effective quantities of a composition according to Claim 1 are administered to the patient.

18. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 16 for the prevention of osteoporosis induced by treatment with corticosteroids.

19.(previously presented A pharmaceutical tablet as defined in claim 1 wherein the binder is polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 300 and 1500.

20.(new) A pharmaceutical tablet as defined in claim 1 wherein the binder is propylene glycol.

21.(new) A pharmaceutical tablet as defined in claim 1 wherein the binder is liquid paraffin.

22.(new) A pharmaceutical tablet as defined in claim 1 wherein the binder is silicone oil.